



Cuyahoga County  
**Together We Thrive**

Armond Budish  
Cuyahoga County Executive

June 8, 2018

Council President Dan Brady  
Councilman Michael J. Gallagher  
Cuyahoga County Council  
2079 East Ninth Street  
Cleveland, OH 44115

Dear Council President Brady and Councilman Gallagher:

I am surprised that you chose to communicate your concerns through a letter, since my office is just down the hall from you. However, since you decided to write a letter, I am compelled to respond in-kind.

Thank you for your views and suggestions concerning the medical care in the jail. Of course, I share your interest in ensuring that the prisoners in our custody are provided high-quality medical care. It is my understanding that, in fact, at all times the prisoners have been receiving high-quality medical care.

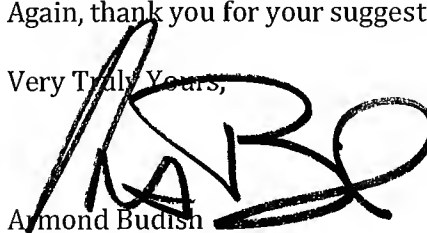
In preparation for opening the Bedford Hts. jail, the Sheriff arranged to hire the additional nurses necessary to provide care. Unfortunately, at the last minute, those nurses withdrew, apparently due to salary. In order to ensure that needed medical care would be available, the Sheriff authorized hiring nurses on a temporary basis, which was done. At the same time, the Sheriff began the process to hire additional permanent nursing staff, and the administration approved additional funds for staff and salaries. Contrary to statements made at the council hearing, at no time did a crisis occur at the jail. I also note that the independent investigations of the jail performed annually by the State have given our jail medical the highest rating.

We appreciate your suggestion that the County discuss "bringing the nurses' unit under MetroHealth." In fact, the current arrangement, with the County hiring the nurses under MetroHealth's medical oversight, is quite odd. It should be noted that this arrangement was previously approved by Council before this administration took office. It should also be noted that, while our nurses belong to a union with the right to collectively bargain, those at MetroHealth do not.

As you know, I have just appointed Brandy Carney to serve as the Chief Safety and Protection Officer. Addressing the health care at the jail will be one of her top priorities.

We would be happy to engage in further conversations, preferably in person.  
Again, thank you for your suggestions.

Very Truly Yours,

  
Armond Budish